



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Raised Bill No. 903

LCO No. 4375



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-195aa of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

3 As used in [sections 20-195aa] this section and sections 20-195bb to
4 20-195ee, inclusive, as amended by this act:

5 (1) "Licensed professional counselor" or "professional counselor"
6 means a person who has been licensed as a clinical professional
7 counselor pursuant to this chapter;

8 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

9 (3) "Department" means the Department of Public Health;

10 (4) "Professional counseling" means the application, by persons
11 trained in counseling, of established principles of psycho-social
12 development and behavioral science to the evaluation, assessment,

13 analysis, diagnosis and treatment of emotional, behavioral or
14 interpersonal dysfunction or difficulties that interfere with mental
15 health and human development. "Professional counseling" includes,
16 but is not limited to, individual, group, marriage and family
17 counseling, functional assessments for persons adjusting to a
18 disability, appraisal, crisis intervention and consultation with
19 individuals or groups; [.]

20 (5) "Under professional supervision" means the practice of
21 professional counseling under the professional supervision of a
22 licensed clinical professional counselor, a physician licensed pursuant
23 to chapter 370, who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of
24 Psychiatry and Neurology, an advanced practice registered nurse
25 licensed pursuant to chapter 378, who is certified as an adult
26 psychiatric and mental health clinical nurse specialist by the American
27 Nurses Credentialing Center, a psychologist licensed pursuant to
28 chapter 383, a marital and family therapist licensed pursuant to
29 chapter 383a or a licensed clinical social worker licensed pursuant to
30 chapter 383b; and

31 (6) "Professional supervision" means face-to-face consultation
32 between one supervisor, who is a professional described in subdivision
33 (5) of this section, and one person receiving supervision that consists of
34 not less than a monthly review with a written evaluation and
35 assessment by the supervisor of such person's practice of professional
36 counseling.

37 Sec. 2. Section 20-195cc of the general statutes is repealed and the
38 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

39 (a) The Commissioner of Public Health shall grant a license as a
40 professional counselor to any applicant who furnishes evidence
41 satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant has met the
42 requirements of section 20-195dd, as amended by this act. The
43 commissioner shall develop and provide application forms. The

44 application fee shall be three hundred fifteen dollars.

45 (b) Licenses issued under this section may be renewed annually
46 pursuant to section 19a-88. The fee for such renewal shall be one
47 hundred ninety-five dollars. Each licensed professional counselor
48 applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the
49 commissioner of having participated in continuing education
50 programs. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance
51 with chapter 54, to (1) define basic requirements for continuing
52 education programs [, which] that shall include (A) not less than one
53 contact hour of training or education each registration period on the
54 topic of cultural competency, [and,] (B) on and after January 1, 2016,
55 not less than two contact hours of training or education during the first
56 renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less
57 than once every six years thereafter on the topic of mental health
58 conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans,
59 including [(A)] (i) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family
60 member of a veteran, [(B)] (ii) screening for conditions such as post-
61 traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and
62 [(C)] (iii) suicide prevention training, and (C) on and after January 1,
63 2018, not less than three contact hours of training or education each
64 registration period on the topic of professional ethics, (2) delineate
65 qualifying programs, (3) establish a system of control and reporting,
66 and (4) provide for a waiver of the continuing education requirement
67 for good cause.

68 Sec. 3. Section 20-195dd of the general statutes is repealed and the
69 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

70 (a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this
71 section, an applicant for a license as a professional counselor shall,
72 prior to January 1, 2019, submit evidence satisfactory to the
73 [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner of having: [(1)] (A)
74 Completed sixty graduate semester hours in or related to the discipline
75 of counseling at a regionally accredited institution of higher education,

76 [which] that included coursework in each of the following areas: [(A)]
 77 (i) Human growth and development, [(B)] (ii) social and cultural
 78 foundations, [(C)] (iii) counseling theories and techniques or helping
 79 relationships, [(D)] (iv) group dynamics, [(E)] (v) processing and
 80 counseling, [(F)] (vi) career and lifestyle development, [(G)] (vii)
 81 appraisals or tests and measurements for individuals and groups, [(H)]
 82 (viii) research and evaluation, and [(I)] (ix) professional orientation to
 83 counseling; [(2)] (B) earned, from a regionally accredited institution of
 84 higher education a master's or doctoral degree in social work, marriage
 85 and family therapy, counseling, psychology or a related mental health
 86 field; [(3)] (C) acquired three thousand hours of postgraduate-degree-
 87 supervised experience in the practice of professional counseling,
 88 performed over a period of not less than one year, that included a
 89 minimum of one hundred hours of direct supervision by [(A)] (i) a
 90 physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 who has obtained
 91 certification in psychiatry from the American Board of Psychiatry and
 92 Neurology, [(B)] (ii) a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383,
 93 [(C)] (iii) an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to
 94 chapter 378 and certified as a clinical specialist in adult psychiatric and
 95 mental health nursing with the American Nurses Credentialing Center,
 96 [(D)] (iv) a marital and family therapist licensed pursuant to chapter
 97 383a, [(E)] (v) a clinical social worker licensed pursuant to chapter
 98 383b, [(F)] (vi) a professional counselor licensed, or prior to October 1,
 99 1998, eligible for licensure, pursuant to section 20-195cc, or [(G)] (vii) a
 100 physician certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry
 101 and Neurology, psychologist, advanced practice registered nurse
 102 certified as a clinical specialist in adult psychiatric and mental health
 103 nursing with the American Nurses Credentialing Center, marital and
 104 family therapist, clinical social worker or professional counselor
 105 licensed or certified as such or as a person entitled to perform similar
 106 services, under a different designation, in another state or jurisdiction
 107 whose requirements for practicing in such capacity are substantially
 108 similar to or higher than those of this state; and [(4)] (D) passed an
 109 examination prescribed by the commissioner.

110 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this
111 section, an applicant for licensure as a professional counselor shall, on
112 and after January 1, 2019, submit evidence satisfactory to the
113 commissioner of having: (A) (i) Earned a graduate degree in mental
114 health counseling as part of a program of higher learning accredited by
115 the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational
116 Programs, or a successor organization, or (ii) (I) completed at least
117 sixty graduate semester hours in or related to the discipline of
118 counseling at a regionally accredited institution of higher education
119 that included coursework in each of the following areas: Human
120 growth and development; social and cultural foundations; counseling
121 theories; counseling techniques; group counseling; career counseling;
122 appraisals or tests and measurements to individuals and groups;
123 research and evaluation; professional orientation to mental health
124 counseling; addiction and substance abuse counseling; trauma and
125 crisis counseling; and diagnosis and treatment of mental and
126 emotional disorders, (II) earned from a regionally accredited
127 institution of higher education a master's or doctoral degree in social
128 work, marriage and family therapy, counseling, psychology or a
129 related mental health field, (III) completed a one-hundred-hour
130 practicum in clinical mental health counseling, and (IV) completed a
131 six-hundred-hour clinical mental health counseling internship; (B)
132 acquired three thousand hours of postgraduate-degree-supervised
133 experience in the practice of professional counseling, performed over a
134 period of not less than one year, that included a minimum of one
135 hundred hours of experience under professional supervision; and (C)
136 passed an examination prescribed by the commissioner.

137 (b) An applicant for licensure by endorsement shall present
138 evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant is licensed
139 or certified as a professional counselor, or as a person entitled to
140 perform similar services under a different designation, in another state
141 or jurisdiction whose requirements for practicing in such capacity are
142 substantially similar to or higher than those of this state and that there

143 are no disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints pending.

144 (c) An applicant who is [currently] licensed or certified as a
145 professional counselor or its equivalent in another state, territory or
146 commonwealth of the United States may substitute three years of
147 licensed or certified work experience in the practice of professional
148 counseling in lieu of the requirements of [subdivision (3)]
149 subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, or
150 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, as
151 applicable, provided the commissioner finds that such experience is
152 equal to or greater than the requirements of this state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	20-195aa
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	20-195cc
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	20-195dd

Statement of Purpose:

To strengthen and clarify academic qualifications for licensed professional counselors and require licensed professional counselors to complete continuing education in professional ethics.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]